

Romans, pt.9, 5.12–21, 11.5.06

Adam & Christ

1. The first Adam & the second Adam
2. The comparison; “anti-type”; Adam is a type of Christ, but in a negative form. Like saying Saddam Hussein is a type of Ghandi...his extreme brutality is contrasted with Ghandi’s extreme compassion; The anit-Christ is a type of Jesus.
3. This is an extremely challenging passage exegetically & theologically...I’m going to keep to the main & plain. Einstein said, “Make things as simple as possible, but not simpler than they are.”
4. Read the text

Adam ushered in the reign of sin; whereas, Christ ushered in the reign of grace

- Adam’s sin – v.12–14
 - Adam & Eve in the garden...Eve sinned first, but Adam was held responsible...in part, b/c he was created first & secondly he wasn’t deceived he knew...he wasn’t in another part of the garden tending to it & she pitched him a piece of fruit.
 - Adam was mankind’s rep & in a mysterious way we were in Christ, i.e., our DNA
 - We are sinners by nature & choice (not just what we do, but who we are)
- God’s gift of grace – v.15, 17
 - He ushered in the reign of grace for mankind to experience forgiveness, restoration & hope.
- Consider the impact of both upon humanity
 - Look at the fruit of sin – sin breaks & kills
 - Look at the impact of grace on society – forgives sins through the cross, bestows on sinners both righteousness & eternal life, satisfies the thirsty soul; fills the hungry with good things, shapes sinners into the image of Christ, perseveres, will destroy death & win the day!
- Note which of these two is stronger?

- Look at the big picture; grace shall reign longer...Illustrate it with rope stretched across the front of worship center, mark a very small portion representing mankind's existence
- It's not about who is ahead after 1 minute of a 90 minute game...God is winning now...there's no contest...His grace is reigning in my heart and over all who have gone before; his grace reigned before creation & after His return.
 - We are at the beginning stages of the reign of grace...individually & collectively.
 - As well, there is another dimension where grace is reigning...don't separate this life from the next. There's no separation...you keep on living in a new & better way if you're a follower of Christ. We are so earthbound, we don't even consider that real...yet it's more real, b/c it's a truer reflection of what God always wanted...mankind living in harmony with Him doing His will for their lives...we're the ones stuck with the bum deal...we got the used car & they got the new one.

Adam's sin brought the bondage of death to everyone; whereas, Christ's death brought the gift of forgiveness to many - v.15 (with one shackles; with the other the key)

- Adam's sin has led to physical & spiritual death - v.12, 14f, 17
 - Physical death -
 - Our bodies were created never to wear out...every ache you feel wasn't a part of the original model...the original model had no problems, but the succeeding ones did...they age, break down, lose vitality (some ask: what will our new bodies look like? Like the Lord wants them to & I'll be happy with it.)
 - We try to convince ourselves that physical death is a natural part of life, but it wasn't a part of God's original design. I believe this is why even when a person lives a full life & dies at a ripe old age we still say, "I wish he was still with us." God has put within us

sense to know that death wasn't a part of the original design. I believe it's more than just emotional connectedness that spurs that thought, but rather the image of God within us that says, "This isn't the way it should be."

- Disease isn't a part of the original plan...I believe that's one of the reason people go into the medical profession...they are responding to the image of God within them that says, "This isn't the way it should be...."
- Spiritual death – sin closes off our relationship with God...there is a void inside...a wandering heart that can't find true contentment
- There is separation...that they try to fill with a job, cause, a person, position, influence...it's elusive and they eventually learn to live with.
- Isaiah says, "Your sins have separated you from God...hidden his face from you"
 - Personalize it: Think in terms of being in close relationship with a person, who is constantly sinning against you. What impact would that have on you? You wouldn't ignore it, but rather push the person away
- Jesus' death has made us right with God – v.16, 18
 - Forgiveness (Adam's sin led us into bondage; Christ death has liberated us from jail)
 - Available to the many. It isn't an automatic, but has to be chosen...just b/c it's accessible doesn't mean it's accessed.
 - God places high value on our choice to follow him...It is one of those attributes that sets mankind apart for the rest of creation...
 - We must choose forgiveness...God gives us a choice...God is looking for voluntary lovers.
 - His death has made me right with God

- It was provided for the many, but not for the all...it can only be accessed by faith in Christ.
- he's not teaching universalism...consider this text in light of all Paul's teaching.

Every person in Adam's race is ruled by sin & walks in death; whereas, every person in Christ triumphs over sin & death and walks in life (v.17, 21)

- We are separated from God and condemned - v. 12, 15-18
 - Ruled - to wield kingly rule & authority; it's not like you have a little sin issue; you are consumed by it...the cancer has eaten up your body...you aren't getting better
 - Condemned - guilty w/o a single word in my defense; utterly guilty
 - Those who are ruled by sin walk in death - v.21
 - Our entire lives are distorted.

I have on my desktop a picture of a boy named Sasha. Sasha is one of the children of Chernobyl, a young boy born after the disaster that happened when the core at a nuclear facility in Russia melted and leaked. This little boy, Sasha, is perhaps 5-years-old, and he is gripping, with a tiny arm, the side of a crib. His other hand is flailing upward toward his ear, his head and shoulders the only portion of his body not mutated. On the right side of Sasha's chest rises a lump the size of a softball, and his belly grows out disfigured before him as though he were pregnant, a truly painful sight.

His legs are oversized and blocky, and he has no knees, only rounded flesh flowing awkwardly to his oversized feet, which produce four toes each, the largest of which, as big as my fist, is distanced from the others and pointing itself in an opposite direction. From the bottom of his stomach protrudes a rounded flow of flesh as though it were a separate limb, stopped in half growth. Sasha, the article in which I found the picture states, is in constant pain, lives in constant pain.

As terrible as it is to compare Sasha to ourselves, I have to go there. I have to say that you and I were not supposed to be this way. As creatures in need of somebody outside of ourselves to name us, as creatures incomplete outside the companionship of God, our souls are born distorted, I am convinced of it. I am convinced that Moses was right, that his explanation was greater than Freud's or Maslow's or Pavlov's.

I believe, without question, that none of us are happy in the way we were supposed to be happy. I believe that nobody on this planet is so secure, so confident in their state that they feel the way Adam and Eve felt in the Garden before they knew they

were naked. I believe we are in the wreckage of a war, a kind of Hiroshima, a kind of Mount Saint Helens, with souls distorted like the children of Chernobyl. As terrible as it is to think about these things, as ugly as it is to face them, I have to see the world this way in order for it to make sense. I have to believe something happened, and we are walking around holding our wounds.

Donald Miller, Searching for God Knows What (Nelson, 2004), p. 87-88

- Every person from Christ's race triumphs over sin & death and experiences restoration/life - v.17, 21
 - Those ruled by grace walk in harmony with God and experience eternal life - v.21.
 - I no longer have to tolerate my sinful ways, God has given me victory...we still struggle with sin and we are eventually overcome by death, but these aren't permanent realities.
 - Don't settle for, "that's just the way I am & that's not going to change." Yes, it will change in the next life and there's grace for it to change in this one.
 - God has given me victory in the next life, but also in this life.
 - Illustration - the story of Mel Trotter, p.118 in Hughes. He was defeated by sin & condemned, but through faith in Christ he conquered sin and lived in victory & brought others into this new reality of victory over sin & death.
- Summary - Consider all Christ has done; this is much greater than what sin has or is doing to you
 - Christ has ushered in the reign of grace
 - Christ has brought you into forgiveness.
 - Christ has given you victory over sin & death and the ability walk into life

What does this stir in you? These truth ought to impact how you live.

- Thanks & praise
- Greater love for God - you did this for me!

- Humility – all of God and not of me
- Overcoming Spirit – I can do all things through Christ; I don't have to settle